Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An polypeptide immunogen ~~comprising~~ consisting of an amino acid sequence with up to 26 amino acid alterations from ~~at least 85% identical to~~ SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said polypeptide provides protective immunity against *S. aureus* ~~and wherein if one or more additional polypeptide regions are present said additional regions do not provide a carboxyl terminus containing amino acids 261-294 of SEQ ID NO: 7~~.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide consists of an amino acid sequence with up to 20 amino acid alterations from SEQ ID NO: 1. ~~at least 94% identical to either SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2.~~

Claim 3 (previously presented): The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide consists essentially of amino acids 3-260 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or 3-264 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 4 (original): The polypeptide of claim 3, wherein said polypeptide consists of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An immunogen comprising ~~the polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said immunogen consists~~ a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence with up to 26 amino acid alterations from SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said polypeptide provides protective immunity against *S. aureus*, ~~of said polypeptide~~ and one or more additional regions or moieties covalently joined to said polypeptide at the carboxyl terminus or amino terminus, wherein each region or moiety is independently selected from a region or moiety having at least one of the following properties: enhances the immune response, facilitates purification, or facilitates polypeptide stability, and said additional region or moiety is different from a sai-1 region.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A composition able to induce a protective immune response in a patient comprising an immunologically effective amount of the immunogen of claim 5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 7 (original): The composition of claim 6, wherein said composition further comprises an adjuvant.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A nucleic acid comprising a recombinant gene comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of claim 1.

Claim 9 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 8, wherein said nucleic acid is an expression vector.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A recombinant cell comprising a recombinant gene comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of claim 1.

Claim 11 (original): A method of making a *S. aureus* polypeptide that provides protective immunity comprising the steps of:

(a) growing the recombinant cell of claim 10 under conditions wherein a polypeptide is expressed; and

(b) purifying said polypeptide.

Claim 12 (original): A method of inducing a protective immune response in a patient comprising the step of administering to said patient an immunologically effective amount of a polypeptide immunogen comprising an amino acid at least 85% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12, wherein said patient is a human.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein said patient is treated prophylactically against *S. aureus* infection.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 12, wherein said immunogen consists of an amino acid sequence with up to 26 amino acid alterations from SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 16 (new): The method of claim 13, wherein said immunogen consists of an amino acid sequence with up to 20 amino acid alterations from SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 17 (new): The method of claim 16, wherein said immunogen is substantially purified and is at least 99% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 18 (new): The method of 17, wherein said immunogen consists of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 19 (new): The polypeptide of claim 2, wherein said polypeptide is substantially purified.

Claim 20 (new): The polypeptide of claim 19, wherein said polypeptide is at least 99% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1